

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner is thanked for his on-going precise examination of the application.

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 1, 7, and 14 under 35 USC 112 on the grounds that the originally filed disclosure fails to disclose that the mold (62) used to form the chip includes a surface having micro-channels.

Examiner's argument for this rejection appears to derive from the (unstated though reasonable) assumption that the micro-channels to which reference is made in claims 1, 7, and 14, should be described as part of the pressed part rather than as part of the mold. We have, accordingly, reworded these claims to remove any possible ambiguity in this regard. The relevant clause now reads as follows:

providing a mold, shaped to form, in a surface that conforms to said mold, micro-channels and an array of flat bottomed depressions having a depth no greater than 500 microns;

No new matter is involved since the presence of micro-channels in the molded piece is disclosed in the specification (see, for example, element 22 in FIG. 2 and the first paragraph on page 8) and it is inherent to the nature of a mold to be shaped so as to form a desired shape in a surface that has been caused to conform to it.

In light of the amendments to claims 1, 7, and 14, as noted immediately above, reconsideration is requested of the rejection of all remaining claims under 35 USC 112 on the grounds that they are no longer dependent on rejected claims.

Appl. No. 10/613,599
Amdt. dated 12/27/2007
Reply to Office action of 11/27/2007

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance now be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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